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Karachi
1783

ADDRESS BY GRAND MUFTI OF PALESTINE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST
OPENING SESSION OF THE WORLD MUSLIM
CONVENTION - FEBRUARY 9, 1951.

The following is the English translation of the address:

"In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

"Prayers be to God who hath said and who say the best
'You may debate amongst yourself what is good and benevolent'
and prayers and peace to our Holy Prophet.

"It is a pleasure to our heart that this conference should
be held in the capital of this young Muslim state - Pakistan.
It is being held with a view to bringing together the
brethren of the faith from all parts of the Muslim world; so
that they may know and take counsel from each other and
cooperate in achieving good deeds and obtaining piety; so that
they may advance their welfare and interest guided as they
are by the shining light of Islam, by the glittering gems of the
Holy Quran. God has prescribed for the cure of the ills that
may befall on humanity, for all times and at all places.

"I offer from this platform my prayers for the soul of
the great leader of Pakistan, late Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali
Jinnah, and his noble brethren and martyrs of Pakistan,
Indonesia, Afghanistan, Malaya, Egypt, Sudan, China, Turkey,
Turkistan, Arabia, North Africa, Balkan, Caucasus, Palestine
and other countries, who in their defence of the cause of
Islam, laid down their own lives.

"I also express thanks and gratitude to the organizers
of this conference for the good work and noble services
rendered by them. I also thank the Government of Pakistan
for their support to this conference and for their permission
to the organizers to hold it in their capital. Indeed, Muslims
throughout the world look to this young but progressive
country - Pakistan - and to other sister Islamic countries
for the attainment of their great hopes, expecting that they
would all work for unity, cooperation and progress so that
they may save their peoples in particular, and Muslims in
general, from such humiliation and misfortune that had befallen
the Muslims in Spain in the past and in Palestine in the
present.

"Palestine is the first Quibla of Islam, it is the land
of Isra, of Moraj (Accession), it is the home of ancient and
subsequent martyrs. And what has befallen Palestine is feared
to befall Muslim lands one after the other, according to the
imperialists' scheme that has been pre-planned since long to
destroy and annihilate Muslims. This is a lesson for those
who have got the mind to learn.

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"There can be no doubt that the tribulation and catastrophe that have befallen the Muslims was all due to weakness of their faith, faulting of their souls and reluctance of their determination, as well as to their parsimony and hesitation to finance sound undertakings and schemes aiming at furthering their progress and strength.

"To be avicious is to deprive oneself, God is the wealthiest but ye are the poor"; the Muslims therefore depressed and degenerated; they were humiliated by their enemies and in spite of their numerical superiority and their wealth they lost their command; a true example to what our Holy Prophet had demonstrated when he said 'Peoples would rush on you as hungry eaters rush to their food', and the Prophet was asked would that be because we would be fewer in number, then he said 'May you would then be numerous yet, when you are seized by faintness then you would be ineffective as foams in a torrent'. And they asked 'And what is feebleness, O Prophet of God?' And he replied 'It is love of wordly life and hatred of death'.

"O brothers, it is the duty of Muslims to hold conferences with a view to discussing aims of common interest and effecting cooperation and laying down such practical schemes that would ensure their safeguards and success and this conference commences the Islamic renaissance throughout the world.

"For such multitudinous population and with such vast lands, rich resources, formidable strategic centers and such a glorious history and the living culture, and above all such a great religion - a religion that guided the truth and piety which ensure for its followers happiness in the present and in the world thereafter - the Mussalmans should awake and cast away their illusions; they should squarely face facts and tread the proper path which they had tread before so as to escape dangers and take their rightful position and get their due share of pride, honor and prosperity. They have to firmly determine to prepare strength to do so.

"The dangers that confront the Muslims from all corners today are threatening the very existence of Islam. God forbid! The modus operandi is an organized, elaborate, preconceived and preplanned design by the enemies of Islam who throttled the Ottoman Empire and the Islamic Caliphate and who crushed the Muslim Moghul Empire. Their design has not yet ceased. For, after the tragedy of Palestine they began plotting against the neighboring countries.

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"The Jews are working in close cooperation with Imperialist Powers to execute their nefarious schemes. The Imperialist Powers have driven a wedge into the Muslim countries to destroy Islam and to separate Muslim countries in Asia from those in Africa. The Jewish greed did not stop there. They are demanding and ceaselessly working for the occupation of Northern Hedjaz, such as Teima and Khaiber and other parts around Medina, namely Fini Quriza and Dini Al-Nazur, on the pretext that these areas belonged to them in the past. They went so far that one of their cheats has published an article in a well-known American newspaper urging the Jews to organize a military expedition to occupy Medina.

"You will, therefore, see that Muslim religious places, not only Palestine but also in Hedjaz are confronting the greatest danger and that the enemies of Islam are strenuously trying to overcome Islam.

"Muslims have, therefore, to learn much from the lesson of Palestine and to derive strength and determination from that catastrophe, which should not despair them, for it is the infidels who despair from God Almighty's spirit.

"Muslims should try to save Palestine from the intriguing elements which shape its lot in accordance with the whims of the enemies and are exploiting the tragedy in one way or the other. The question of Palestine should be handed back to those sincere hands to which it belonged, and the Muslim world should work hand in hand to redeem it; for the loss of this holy land would encourage the enemy to crash his way into other Muslim countries.

"In conclusion I suggest to this august meeting to direct the Muslims to the following:-

"(1) To strengthen the spirit and purify the souls of the Muslims. To revive through faith by installing Islamic conviction in the minds and by preparing for sacrifice and self denial; by sacrificing life and property; by abiding by the noble ethics of Islam; by teaching Islamic principles in schools and houses; by casting away despair and hopelessness.

"(2) To work for the achievement of the Islamic unity according to the command of God: 'This Nation is verily one'. To come closer to each other and to unite for the defense of Islam, Muslim teachings and Holy places. Evidences have shown that in this age of ours no one can withstand the problems of life without forming a bloc. For no nation can live in isolation and let it be known to all that if Muslims cooperate among themselves, harness their strength and form a bloc of their own

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it does not mean that they are doing so for aggressive designs. But for legitimate self-defense and for the common peace. Islam is a religion of kindness and peace it has even enjoined upon us to begin our actions and our prayers with the following sentiments: 'In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most merciful', and conclude them with equal prayer for peace benevolence. The Muslim greeting involves peace, contrary to the greetings of other nations. It is, therefore, for the welfare of the humanity as a whole and for the attainment of universal peace that we, Muslims, come closely to each other and form a bloc of our own, in accordance to God's command: 'Cooperate with each other in benevolence and piety and not in sense and aggression'.

"(3) To call for Islamic brotherhood in accordance with God's command: 'Faithfuls are brothers', we should therefore call for cooperation amongst Muslims in all their economic, social, political and defense affairs.

"(4) To call upon the Muslims to be fair and just in all matters; to apply social justice; to take care of farmers, workers and the poor; to eliminate social and color barriers in accordance to God's command: 'Most honored amongst you is the most God-fearing'.

"(5) To call upon Muslims to introduce the means that would help them to build their strength and affect their true awakening; to urge the rich among them to contribute money for the furtherance of the cause of Islam and of Allah; to urge the Muslims to be simple in their ways or austere in their methods and noble in their manners as Islam prohibited luxury and all other habits that inherits weakness of character.

"(6) That the Motamar should take cognisance of oppressed Muslims wherever they may be; take care of their interest and help them morally and materially.

"(7) That the Motamar should set up an effective organization which would take care of Muslim questions and render whatever service need to them in all spheres that involve Muslim interests and welfare.

"It is to God's commandments that you will have to look for an honorable, happy and dignified life. You must hold fast to His chord and fill your heart with the light of Faith and the ray of piety. And God will improve your lot and lead you to victory.